

Attorney Docket No. 7175-73312

Application No. 10/670,941 (Filed September 25, 2003)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36.(canceled)

37.(Previously presented) A patient support apparatus comprising a frame,

a deck coupled to the frame and configured to support a patient, the deck including a first section coupled to the frame and movable between a lowered position and a raised position and a second section coupled to the frame and movable between a lowered position and a raised position,

a control assembly coupled to the first section and to the second section, the control assembly being configured to initially raise the second section to the raised position and then lower the second section to the lowered position as the first section is raised from the lowered position to the raised position, and

a drive coupled to the second section and operable independent of the control assembly to raise and lower the second section.

38.(original) A patient support apparatus comprising a frame,

a deck coupled to the frame and configured to support a patient, the deck including a first section coupled to the frame for movement from a lowered position to a raised position through an intermediate position therebetween, the deck including a second section coupled to the frame for movement between a raised position and a lowered position,

a control assembly coupled to the first section and coupled to the second section, the control assembly being configured to move the second section from the lowered position to the raised position as the first section moves from the lowered position to the intermediate position, and the control assembly being configured to move the second section from the raised position to the lowered position as the first section moves from the intermediate position to the raised position, and

a drive coupled to the second section and operable independent of the control assembly to raise and lower the second section.

39.(Previously presented) A patient support apparatus comprising:
a frame,

a deck coupled to the frame, the deck including a back section, a seat section and a thigh section, the back, seat and thigh sections being longitudinally spaced apart and transversely extending,

the back section being movable relative to the frame between a lowered position and a raised position through an intermediate position therebetween,

the thigh section being movable relative to the frame between a lowered position and a raised position,

a first thigh section drive coupled to the back section and the thigh section such that the thigh section moves from the lowered position to the raised position as the back section moves from the lowered position to the intermediate position and such that the thigh section moves from the raised position to the lowered position as the back section moves from the intermediate position to the raised position, and

a second thigh section drive coupled to the thigh section and operable independent of the back section to raise and lower the thigh section.

40.(Previously presented) A patient support apparatus comprising:

a frame,

a deck coupled to the frame, the deck including a back section, a seat section and a thigh section, the back, seat and thigh sections being longitudinally spaced apart and extending transversely with at least the back and thigh sections being movable relative to the frame between respective lowered positions and raised positions,

a first thigh section drive coupled to the back section and the thigh section to initially raise the thigh section to the raised position and then lower the thigh section to the lowered position in response to movement of the back section from the lowered position to the raised position, and

a second thigh section drive coupled to the thigh section and operable independent of the back section to raise and lower the thigh section.

41-60.(canceled)

61.(New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the first thigh section drive includes a track coupled to the frame, and a track-engaging member movable along the track and coupled to the thigh section and coupled to the back section.

62.(New) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the track includes a first straight portion along which the track-engaging member moves to raise the thigh section and a

second inclined portion along which the track-engaging member moves to lower the thigh section as the back section is raised.

63.(New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the track-engaging member movable along the track is a roller.

64.(New) The apparatus of claim 63, comprising a linkage coupling the roller to the back section to move the roller along the track initially along the straight portion to raise the thigh section and then along the inclined portion to lower the thigh section as the back section is raised.

65.(New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the linkage comprises a spring clutch including a housing, a coil gripping spring received inside the housing and a connecting rod, the connecting rod having a first end coupled to the back section for pivoting movement about a pivot pin, the connecting rod having a second end slidably received inside the gripping spring, wherein the spring clutch is lockable so that the gripping spring constricts around the connecting rod preventing the connecting rod from sliding relative to the gripping spring and the clutch housing to couple the back section to the roller so that the thigh section is initially raised and then lowered as the back section is raised, the spring clutch is releasable so that the gripping spring loosens its grip on the connecting rod allowing the connecting rod to slide relative to the gripping spring and the clutch housing to decouple the back section from roller so that the back section can be raised without also raising the thigh section.

66.(New) The apparatus of claim 65, comprising a handle coupled to the spring clutch, and movable to a first position where the spring clutch is locked to couple the back section to the roller and to a second position where the spring clutch is released to decouple the back section from the roller.

67.(New) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the handle is located near a foot end of the apparatus.

68.(New) The apparatus of claim 67, comprising a release rod coupled to the handle and a cable coupling the release rod to the spring clutch.

69.(New) The apparatus of claim 68, comprising a latch plate coupled to the back section and coupled to the release rod for locking the release rod when the back section is raised and freeing the release rod when the back section is not raised.

70.(New) The apparatus of claim 69, comprising a bracket having a first end coupled to the clutch housing and a second end rotatably coupled to the roller.

71.(New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the first thigh section drive includes first and second links, the first link has a first end coupled to the frame for pivoting movement about a fixed pivot pin and a second end coupled to a first end of the second link for

pivoting movement about a center pivot pin, the second link has a second end coupled to the roller for pivoting movement about a movable pivot pin, and the first thigh section drive includes a lifting roller coupled to the center pivot pin and configured to be coupled to the thigh section so that the thigh section is initially raised and then lowered as the back section is raised.

72.(New) The apparatus of claim 40, comprising a back section drive coupled to the back section to raise and lower the back section, the back section drive including a control coupled to the back section near the head end thereof that can be actuated to adjust the position of the back section.

73.(New) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the control comprises a manually-actuated release bar movably coupled to the underside of the back section.

74.(New) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the release bar is movable between a first locking position spaced apart from the underside of the back section where the back section is prevented from moving relative to the frame, and a second releasing position spaced closer to the underside of the back section where the back section is allowed to move relative to the frame.

75.(New) The apparatus of claim 40, comprising a thigh section drive enabling/disabling mechanism having a first state where the first thigh section drive is decoupled from the back section and having a second state where the first thigh section drive is coupled to the back section, and a thigh section drive locking mechanism configured to prevent the operation of the thigh section drive enabling/disabling mechanism in response to raising of the back section.

76.(New) The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the thigh section drive enabling/disabling mechanism includes a handle, and wherein the handle is movable between a first releasing position where the first thigh section drive is decoupled from the back section and a second locking position where the first thigh section drive is coupled to the back section.